

Shawna Groulx

Testimony in Support of House Bill 4625 - 4628

June 22, 2011

Thank you for allowing me time to speak.

I have just completed my 6th year as a public school teacher at Grand Blanc Community Schools.

The bills before you today finally prioritize students and their rights to a world class education. I urge you to support them.

The current system that allows ineffective teachers to keep their jobs over effective or even highly effective teachers is simply wrong.

I welcome observation as well as evaluation – I want to know my strengths as well as areas where I can make adjustments. And I want to have the chance to be rewarded for my student's academic as well as personal growth.

While most teachers I work with are outstanding at what they do, there are a few in the profession who should not be in the classroom. Ineffective teachers must be let go. Teaching is an art and Michigan students do not have time for ineffective teachers to learn how to teach.

Some may argue that we need to repeal tenure, while others may argue these bills go too far, rarely does the legislature get the political momentum behind major legislation that can truly change millions of lives. Today is one of those days.

For great teachers, great students, and the future of our state, know that there are educators who support you and are rooting for you to stand up to the pressure and do the right thing.

Please vote yes on House Bill 4625, House Bill 4626, House Bill 4627, and House Bill 4628.

Thank you.